



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALIFORNIA MAN SENTENCED IN MILLION DOLLAR METH CONSPIRACY, MONEY LAUNDERING CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a California man was sentenced in federal court today for his role in methamphetamine and money laundering conspiracies.

“This case involves a major methamphetamine conspiracy,” Graves said, “including 21 convicted co-defendants and nearly \$1 million in proceeds from the sale of meth.”

Ivan M. Tofiga, 31, of Corona, Calif., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to 27 years in federal prison without parole. **Tofiga** is also subject to an order of forfeiture for approximately \$1 million and property located in Corona, Calif., which was derived from the illegal drug trafficking.

On Jan. 27, 2005, **Tofiga** pleaded guilty to participating in methamphetamine and money laundering conspiracies. **Tofiga** admitted that he participated in a conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Dec. 1, 2000, and April 22, 2004. **Tofiga** also admitted that he participated in a conspiracy to launder the proceeds of that illegal drug trafficking between Dec. 1, 2000, and April 22, 2004.

Tofiga is the 16th co-defendant to be sentenced in this case, which involves a total of 21 co-defendants, all of whom have pleaded guilty.

Garrett L. Johnson, 42, of Blue Springs, Mo., was sentenced on Sept. 22, 2005, to 11 years and three months in federal prison without parole. On Feb. 4, 2005, **Johnson** pleaded guilty to participating in the methamphetamine and money laundering conspiracies.

Joshua L. Drummond, 26, of Independence, Mo., was sentenced on Sept. 22, 2005, to eight years in federal prison without parole. On Feb. 8, 2005, **Drummond** pleaded guilty to

participating in the methamphetamine conspiracy.

Co-defendants **Jason M. Butler**, 30, and **Matthew R. Klussman**, 29, both of Independence, were each sentenced on Sept. 21, 2005. **Butler** was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison without parole and **Klussman** was sentenced to three years and one month in federal prison without parole. **Klussman** and **Butler** both pleaded guilty to participating in the methamphetamine conspiracy.

Peti Nofoglia Iosua, 39, who is incarcerated by the Florida Department of Corrections, and **Juan Ramon Perez**, 29, of Glendora, Calif., were sentenced on Sept. 20, 2005. **Iosua** was sentenced to 25 years in federal prison without parole and **Perez** was sentenced to 14 years in federal prison without parole. **Iosua** and **Perez** each pleaded guilty to their role in the methamphetamine conspiracy and the money laundering conspiracy.

On Sept. 9, 2005, **Jason C. Highley**, 27, of Independence, was sentenced to four years and nine months in federal prison without parole. **Highley** pleaded guilty to maintaining a place of residence for the purpose of distributing, using and manufacturing methamphetamine.

On Aug. 29, 2005, **Christopher L. Earley**, 28, of Independence, was sentenced to 10 years and one month in federal prison without parole for this role in the methamphetamine conspiracy.

On Aug. 20, 2005, **Guy A. Girratono**, 28, of Independence, was sentenced to four years in federal prison without parole. **Girratono** pleaded guilty to participating in the methamphetamine conspiracy.

On Aug. 20, 2005, **Janet Castillo Martinez**, 32, of San Diego, Calif., was sentenced to five years of federal probation for her role in the money laundering conspiracy.

On Aug. 11, 2005, **Matthew S. Stewart**, 29, and **Laurie J. Pazienza**, 24, whose addresses are unknown, and **Elizabeth Ann Corley**, 24, of Kissimmee, Fla., were sentenced for their role in the conspiracies to launder money and distribute methamphetamine. **Stewart** was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison without parole, **Pazienza** was sentenced to one year and one day in federal prison without parole, and **Corley** was sentenced to probation. **Pazienza** and **Stewart** pleaded guilty to participating in the methamphetamine conspiracy. **Corley** pleaded guilty to her role in the money laundering conspiracy.

On July 20, 2005, **Casey L. McElroy**, 34, of Excelsior Springs, Mo., was sentenced to six years in federal prison without parole. **McElroy** pleaded guilty on Jan. 21, 2005, to participating in the methamphetamine and money laundering conspiracies.

On May 17, 2005, **Matthew G. Stansbury**, 26, of Independence, was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison without parole. **Stansbury** pleaded guilty on Nov. 23, 2004, to participating in the methamphetamine conspiracy.

Five co-defendants also have pleaded guilty to their role in the two conspiracies to distribute methamphetamine and launder funds generated by the distribution of methamphetamine.

Rickie T. Atagi, 35, of Independence, **Ronald Wayne Younger**, 34, of Blue Springs, **Spencer La Key**, 27, of Kansas City, Mo., and **Timothy A. Gorman**, 27, of Sugar Creek, Mo., each pleaded guilty to participating in the methamphetamine conspiracy. **Younger** also pleaded guilty to his role in the money laundering conspiracy. **Noel Joseph Cruz**, 31, of Duarte, Calif., pleaded guilty to participating in the money laundering conspiracy.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Jackson County Drug Task Force, the Independence, Mo., Police Department, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Corona, Calif., Police Department and the California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow